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International Law Documents

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FINLAND.

Law declaring for national autonomy, July 19, 1917.¹

[New York Times, Current History, 7 (pt. 2); 439.]

1. The Diet of Finland alone decides, confirms, and executes all Finnish laws, including those relating to home affairs, taxation, and customs. The Diet also makes the final decision regarding all other affairs which the Emperor-Grand Duke decided according to the law hitherto in force. The provisions of this law do not relate to matters of foreign policy, military legislation, and military administration.

2. The Diet meets for regular sessions without special summons and decides when they are to be closed. Until Finland's new form of government is decided upon, the Diet exercises the right of deciding upon new elections and the dissolution of the Diet.

3. The Diet controls the executive power of Finland. The supreme executive power is exercised by the economic department of the Finnish Senate, whose members are nominated and dismissed by the Diet.

FRANCE.

Proclamation putting in force decree relating to sojourn of vessels in territorial waters, August 9, 1914.

[Journal Officiel, Aug. 9, 1914, p. 7285.]

In consequence of the existence of a state of war the decree of May 26, 1913,² relative to the conditions of access and sojourn in time of war of vessels other than French war vessels in territorial waters of France and of protected countries comes into force.

Law restricting transfer of national vessels during war, November 11, 1915.

[Journal Officiel, Nov. 14, 1915.]

ARTICLE 1. For the duration of the war and until the expiration of a delay of six months following the end of hostilities, the voluntary sale of a French seagoing ship to a foreigner, either in France or abroad, is prohibited.

¹ The Independence of Finland was proclaimed Dec. 7, 1917, following the Manifesto of the People's Commissaries of Russia, Nov. 23, 1917, that "this right of the Russian peoples to their self-determination is to be extended even as far as separation and the forming of independent States." (New York Times, Current History, 7 (pt. 2): 440.)

Finland was recognized by Sweden, Jan. 3, 1918; by France, Jan. 7; by Germany, Jan. 7; by Denmark and Norway, Jan. 10; by Switzerland, Jan. 17; and by Russia, Mar. 1, 1918. Finland signed a treaty of peace with Germany Mar. 7, 1918 (The New Europe, Apr. 4, 1918; New York Times, Current History, 8 (pt. 1): 445); and with Russia, Mar. 1, 1918, carried out by a treaty of evacuation, Mar. 11, 1918.

² Journal Officiel, June 14, 1913, p. 5097. The sojourn of vessels in time of peace is regulated by a decree of May 21, 1913 (J. O., June 13, 1913, p. 5066, correction, p. 5099, and in time of neutrality by decree of Oct. 18, 1912, putting in effect articles 11 to 15, 19, and 23 of XIII, Hague, 1907.